

Power outages, surgery affect Montgomery County Council candidates

Three miss at-large forum, another drops out of race

County News | Erin Cunningham

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Two candidates for Montgomery County Council say they were unable to attend a candidate forum in Clarksburg on July 28 because they were without power following the July 25 storm.

Raj Narayanan, a Democrat, and Brandon Rippeon, a Republican — who are both running at-large — informed the many groups hosting the event at Cedarbrook Church on Stringtown Road that they could not attend because they had no power.

Fred Evans, a Democratic challenger also running in the at-large race, missed the forum because he was recovering from elective surgery earlier in the day.

Evans told The Gazette that he had his gallbladder removed July 28 during a 40-minute operation. Evans said he was in the early stages of developing gallstones and decided to have the procedure after consulting with his doctor.

Donald Coffey, another at-large candidate, also was not at the forum. Coffey, a Democrat, withdrew from the race July 16. He did not return a call for comment by deadline Tuesday.

The remaining nine Democratic at-large candidates will compete in a Sept. 14 primary election. The general election is Nov. 2.

Early voting an option

in primary election

Early voting will be an option during the gubernatorial primary election this year for the first time, and five early voting centers will be open in Montgomery County, according to a release from the county's Board of Elections.

The centers will open Sept. 3 through Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., excluding Sunday, the release states.

The county's early voting centers are Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center, at 14625 Bauer Drive in Rockville; Germantown Recreation Center, 18905 Kingsview

Road in Germantown; the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center, 14906 Old Columbia Pike in Burtonsville; the Montgomery County Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe St. in Rockville; and the Silver Spring Civic Building, 8525 Fenton St. in Silver Spring.

For details, call 240-777-8683.

Montgomery County Business PAC announces endorsements

The Montgomery County Business PAC announced its first round of endorsements for the 2010 primary elections in Montgomery County on Tuesday, according to a news release.

In the Montgomery County Council at-large race, the PAC endorses council President Nancy M. Floreen (D-At large) of Garrett Park; Councilman George L. Leventhal (D-At large) of Takoma Park; Councilwoman Duchy Trachtenberg (D-At large) of North Bethesda; and challenger Becky Wagner, the release states.

In District 1, the PAC endorses challenger Ilaya Hopkins over Councilman Roger Berliner (D-Dist. 1) of Potomac, and in District 2 the PAC endorses Del. Craig L. Rice (D-Dist. 15) of Germantown.

The PAC also endorsed Councilwoman Nancy Navarro (D-Dist. 4) of Silver Spring and Councilwoman Valerie Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring.

The PAC did not endorse a candidate in District 3 — a seat currently held by Councilman Philip M. Andrews (D) of Gaithersburg, the release states.